

## **Paternity Action**

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Most paternity actions are commenced with the assistance of the Child Support Agency. A named father will be requested to submit to a genetic test. If the results of the genetic test indicate that the named father is indeed the biological father, then the mother and father should consider the following issues:

- Will both parents share **custody**—custody means participating in the major decisions regarding the child’s life, to wit, elective health care, choice of religion, and choice of education for the child. Joint legal custody is the term used to denote shared custody.
- **Periods of Physical Placement**—which parent will care for the child during what time periods.
- **Child support** must be determined pursuant to the Wisconsin Child Support Guidelines.
- Which parent will insure the child for **health care** needs.